

# YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A brown lawn doesn't have to be the symbol for water conservation. Actually, a healthy water-wise landscape adds to the value of your home while helping to protect the environment and save you money.

Efficient water use is especially important during our hot summer months when half of our home water use is for lawns and gardens. While almost 70 percent of our annual rainfall occurs between June and October, it's difficult to store enough for use in the dry season – November through May – when the lack of rain, food crops, tourism and seasonal residents place the greatest demand on the water supply.

Join Freddy in making a difference in the amount of water available during our dry season by conserving water year-round. By stretching your water use, you lessen demand and help to ensure an adequate supply.



This brochure contains suggestions to help you conserve water year-round. For more tips on how to water wisely, visit Freddy on the Web.



[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)



South Florida Water  
Management District

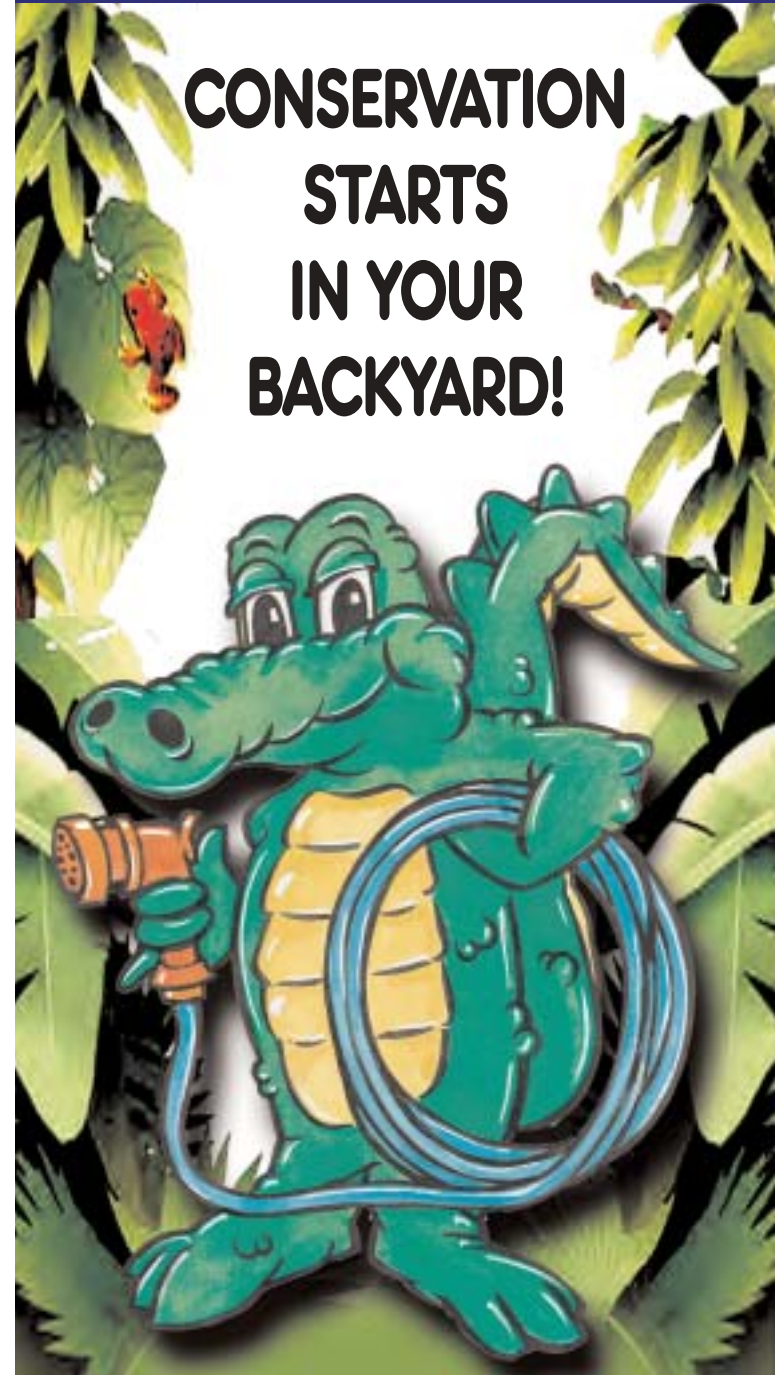
2301 McGregor Boulevard  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Phone: (239) 338-2929

FL WATS: (800) 432-2045

# Water Wisely

**CONSERVATION  
STARTS  
IN YOUR  
BACKYARD!**



**South Florida Water Management District**



## FREDDY THE ALLIGATOR

wants everyone to know that it's easy to have a beautiful lawn and conserve water. Learn to water wisely by implementing the following simple tips. You'll be able to guarantee a sufficient water supply to meet future needs. Here's how to have a robust, beautiful yard while saving water and money:

Water no more than three days a week. Odd addresses can irrigate on Monday and/or Wednesday and/or Saturday, with even addresses on Tuesday and/or Thursday and/or Sunday. Everyone should give their lawn a rest on Friday. *Setting your sprinklers for more days in between watering saves 750 to 1,500 gallons a month.*

Water during the early morning hours when temperatures are cooler to prevent evaporation and allow the water to seep into the ground. The approved hours are from midnight to 10 a.m. or from 4p.m. to midnight on your scheduled day. No watering is allowed between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or on Fridays.



## HELPFUL HINT:

Freddy says almost 80 percent of all garden problems result from over watering. **Three-quarters of an inch of water each time you irrigate is all that's needed.** You can measure your sprinkler system's output capacity by placing empty tuna cans around your lawn when watering. Turn your sprinklers on for 15 minutes, measure the depth of water in the cans and use the following chart to determine how long you need to water your lawn.

Average water depth in tuna cans after 15 minutes.	Total watering time to get 3/4" of water.
1/8 inch	90 minutes
1/4 inch	45 minutes
1/2 inch	20 minutes
3/4 inch	15 minutes
1 inch	10 minutes

Water your lawn only when the grass shows signs of wilting, turns a blue-gray color, footprint marks remain in the grass or leaf blades are folded in half.

Use a rain sensor that automatically turns off your irrigation system when sufficient rain has fallen.

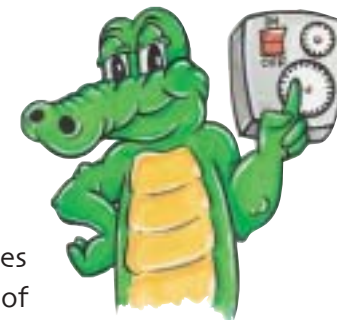
Hire a lawn/irrigation professional to test and adjust your system annually or contact your county mobile irrigation lab.

Buy a rain gauge. A hearty rain can eliminate the need to water for several days.

Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water to prevent the carrying of fertilizers and other chemicals into the sewer system.

Don't water on windy days when water can be blown away from plants or lost to evaporation.

Regularly check sprinkler systems and timing devices and repair as necessary. Watch for broken sprinklers. Broken pipes can waste thousands of gallons per month.



Adjust your sprinklers so you're not watering the house, sidewalk or street.


Use a bucket and an automatic shut-off nozzle on your hose to prevent waste when car and dog washing and sprinkling.

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.

Landscape with appropriate plants and grasses which are water thrifty. Each low-water use plant can save hundreds of gallons per year.

Set a kitchen timer when you water by hose.

*Cut out and place on your timer clock or workbench.*



### FREDDY'S WATERING PLAN

**WATER ONLY WHEN NEEDED BUT NO MORE THAN THREE TIMES PER WEEK.**

**Odd Addresses:**  
Mon. and/or Wed. and/or Sat.

**Even Addresses:**  
Tues. and/or Thurs. and/or Sun.

**Approved watering hours:**  
12 a.m. to 10 a.m. or  
4 p.m. to midnight.

**No watering is allowed between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or on Fridays.**

*(Follow the water conservation efforts in your area. If you're not sure when to water, contact the District for a watering schedule.)*